

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2012

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:04pm by Budget Committee Chairperson Mr. Vadenais.

ROLL CALL 7:04pm: Present were Mrs. Vallee, Mrs. Nadeau, Mr. Puccetti, Mr. Vadenais, Mrs. Bartomioli

Mr. Silvia was also present.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES as amended of the February 11th meeting was made by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Puccetti and unanimously approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of the February 13th meeting was made by Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Vallee and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) FUTURE MEETING DATES/ DEPARTMENT SCHEDULING: We reviewed future meeting dates scheduled with Department Heads. Town Solicitor Atty. Nadeau will meet with us on 3/7 at 7:30pm; Ms. Bourget will meet with us on behalf of the Municipal Court 3/15; and

Chief Jillson is unable to meet with us on 3/1-we may have to schedule a special meeting date with him.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) TOWN CHARTER TIMELINE FOR BUDGET: Mr. Vadenais reported that he went to the Town Council meeting and stated that the dates on the timeline with regard to the budget are not being met. Town Council member Mr. Yazbak suggested that the Budget Committee come up with a more reasonable timeline.

Mr. Silvia stated that North Smithfield is the only town in the state which has 2 separate annual audits-one for the School Department and one for the town. Each audit costs the town approximately \$25,000.

Mr. Vadenais said that we need to submit a budget to the Town Council the second week of April but we won't have revenue numbers by then. We may want to see if we can move it out a couple of weeks.

Q Mr. Vadenais: Do we want to submit a new timeline?

A Mr. Pucetti: We should take it under review to change the charter.

2) MR. BRANCONNIER PRESENTED THE EMA BUDGET:

Mr. Branconnier gave each member of the Budget Committee information pamphlets on the EMA; the CERT program; and the Annual Report for 2011.

The EMA in North Smithfield has 20 volunteers. Mr. Branconnier is paid \$5,000 per year and having the paid position enables NS EMA to obtain federal monies. Mr. Branconnier also wrote a 200 page EM Report which was instrumental in obtaining federal monies for NS in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene.

Mr. Branconnier explained that EMA is a 24 hour emergency service. Often residents call either the fire or police department with a situation the EMA can handle. In those instances the caller is given the EMA number. If/when EMA is unable to handle they refer the caller to a more appropriate service or agency.

Mr. Branconnier explained the CERT program (Community Emergency Response Team) which started as neighbors helping neighbors. CERT members perform CPR; First Aid; help keep things under control during a natural disaster until Emergency Services are able to respond.

The federal government will reimburse the town for ½ of EMA expenditures. We get reimbursed for what we spend. The EMA has a \$57,891 Capital Expense request for forty 800MHZ communication radios. The federal government will contribute \$57,891 as well to fund

the \$115,962 purchase. The EMA would keep 6 of the radios and 34 would be given to other town departments who use radios daily. Mr. Pendergast explained that at the end of 2012 we won't have a radio system as the town need to go to 800MHZ-all departments will need the radios.

The EMA line item request for a vehicle will enable them to get federal monies to maintain the vehicle once they have one.

3) MR. CARPENTER PRESENTED THE WATER AND SEWER BUDGETS:

SEWER BUDGET: Regarding the line item "Treatment Charges" which increased to \$89,900 Mr. Carpenter explained that this figure is an estimate-the city of Woonsocket is improving the treatment plant. Marshfield Commons and Walmart are not factored in.

The overtime item is for the 2 people who should be compensated for overtime when responding to issues including broken pipes.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: How are the grinder pumps working for the residents who purchased them?

A Mr. Carpenter: The switches for the ones purchased in 2009 have been replaced and all are working well now.

WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET: Woonsocket is also improving this system and it will impact NS within the next 3 years. Mr. Silvia noted

that the Capital Budgets for both the Water and Sewer Departments are expensed within their operating budgets. These are the only departments which do this.

4) MR. PENDERGAST PRESENTED THE ANIMAL CONTROL; SCOUTER'S HALL; TREE WARDEN; PARKS & REC; HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT; and RUBBISH DISPOSAL BUDGETS:

PARKS & REC: There is a line item for 2 seasonal employees to cut the grass for a total of \$5200. Mr. Pendergast stated that the School Department gets seasonal workers to cut a much smaller acreage than the town and the town has no seasonal workers.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: The Town Budget has a new line item category-"DPW-ADMINISTRATION" which covers compensation for Mr. Pendergast and the custodian.

The Storm Overtime line item is for outside contractors which we have not needed this year due to the mild winter.

Replacement Parts is for repairs and this year most repairs have been major-for example new vehicle transmissions-because vehicles are getting old. Mr. Pendergast is exploring the option of leasing vehicles used seasonally for 2-3 months rather than purchasing them.

The Capital expense request includes a Vac truck to clean

drainage-the hydraulics went on our truck and at the present time we don't have one that works.

The line item for CONSULTANT/ENGINEERING increased from \$6,650 to \$11,000 due to DEM requirements for testing.

Mr. Pendergast noted that the NS infrastructure is in horrible condition-we have many roads which need repair.

RUBBISH DISPOSAL: Mr. Pendergast hopes to have bid figures in April or May.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday March 1st at 7:00pm at Kendall Dean.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:52pm was made by Mr. Puccetti, seconded by Mrs. Bartomioli and unanimously approved.

**Minutes respectfully submitted,
Merrie Nadeau**